

CR

FILED

EAP

JUN 05 2017

16-5-17

THOMAS G. BRUTON  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

Greeting Judge Virginia Kendall

Dear Honor, I'm writting this letter in regards to my case presently before you for review, Case # 16CR283 I want to thank you for this opportunity that I have to stand before you again this time, I want to give you a little more information about me and my past, and my current being. And how I've changed from the man I was May 1, 2008 and the man I was on 1-5-15 As of right now I'm currently housed at FCI Berlin, I've been here now three months and have completed several courses starting with Successful Thinking, goals, American history, I'm also currently attending hands on carpentry class which is a V.T. course and I'm getting college credits( yes) while I was at Hazelton FCP which is my last location I obtained my High school Diploma (GED) along with my CDC Certification, anger management part #2, Money Management, so you see I haven't been wasting any of this time I have on my hands, I've chosen a new positive path to take even inside of here, I made several mistakes thru out my life, I'm not gonna say that I'm never gonna make mistakes again, But I ensure you those mistakes will not be the same ones that got me here, I made a big mistake May 1 2008 I can't change what happen and took place on that day, But on 1/5/15 I was given the chance to explain and speak about it after the →

Government and my lawyer spoke, you gave me  
a chance I read a prepared letter inside your Court  
room that I didn't write and couldn't pronounce  
half the words I read, it wasn't from the heart  
I didn't wanna look ignorant and stupid in side  
your Court room I wanted to look intelligent  
Before you on that Day, But my heart truth  
and all I Got is here now Before you, Your  
Honor, I'm in my Cell giving you all facts and  
praying for forgiveness your Honor

I was raised up By my Grandmother  
Ms. Bettie Mae Miller which is now Deceased  
and no longer with me, Along with me she  
had Two other Grand kids to take care of  
Besides myself, we lived on the west side of  
Chicago, 3948 W. Huron that is enbetween Palaskis  
and Chicago Ave which is a high Drug infested  
neighborhood where Gang's Guns, Violence took  
place every hour of the Day Growing up, I  
watched my Grandmother struggle to provide and  
take care of us, she received Na SSI Check which  
was \$645.00 Dollars a month she was already 67  
years old at the time, she had to pay light,  
Gas, Telephone, Car Insurance and plus put food  
on the table for three mouthis including Her  
Self I grew up with out a lot of things  
Other kids had, I grew up with out my  
Birthday & Being Celebrated it was so close to  
Christmas that Birthdays for me meant nothing  
I didn't receive a Birthday Cake until I made  
25 years old.

The house we lived in was a three bedroom house that was owned by my Grandmother and her Desasased Husband so there was no rent or mortgage (thank God) I didnt have a bed or Bedroom I slept on a pallet made up of Blankets and Sheets, I'm not using this to be a excuse for my behavior, But your Honor I didnt finish high school no one in my household or neighborhood All I was exposed too was Criminal behavior at 16 years old I was charged with a Car Jacking, robbery, I was Sentenced to 10years I DDC I filed an appeal and won the Judge and God Gave me mercy and gave me a shorter sentence then the 10years I came Home 3-1-01 now a GROW man in age, But not in my mind, I was lost and not ready for the responsibility that was ahead in my future, I had no education, no work skills I worked several jobs, But wasn't successful with holding down a lucrative one in April of 2001 my Girl Came and Brung me some exciting news, She was pregnant with my 1st son Trevor, yeah But there was still one problem I didn't have job the first, so at that moment my life changed I knew that being a father meant being a man, provider, protector, Teacher, parent, etc something I never had so I had no idea how to do any of those things I stated. So I begin to find my way on my own I did my best I didn't want freedom to experience the struggle I did.

again I'm not using this as a pass to say what I did on May 1 2008 was right, In Aug of 2001 I started dating another Girl me and Devon Mom didn't work out, so now my new Girl had some news for me she was pregnant with my son Marquez II and he was due in June of 2002 again no job skills, no education, I'm a Dad now and forced to be a man, so I did what I could to take care of my Boys in May of 2002, here we go again with the [REDACTED] new Baby News my Princess Taniya was on the way and due in Feb 2003, your Honor my life was changing so fast and I had to man up and take care of my Babies, They all have serpent Moms you see your Honor Not only my Boys I had a little Girl that demanded a lot of love and attention Girls are so precious to me and require lots of love, time, and money, Being a dad I had to make their lives better But in my struggle to better their lives I was still learning and trying to better my own life,

In 2005 I was arrested for a Battery charge on a gentleman over a Gas Pump inside of a Gas station my sons were inside my car in their car seats the Gentleman broke out my window with his hand Glass went every where I admit I lost my temper my actions was totally unacceptable I acted out in front of my Boys and I not proud of it But Being a protector and guardian I acted terrible

And I'm Sorry, In 2008 of June my Son Mother  
Called and informed me my Son Trevor was diagnosed  
With a Tumor that appeared to be Cancer (now)  
what a shock I was in no Insurance no medicare  
what was I to do But God made a way  
in Aug of 2008 I found a Job at Taco  
Bell so I worked there until Jan of 2009  
I was fired after there I began to work  
at a spot called T.D. stout property persvation  
in 2009 of Feb I worked there for 9 months  
after there I collected my unemployment  
and went on to start and contract for  
Great Street properties. in April of 2012  
I quit and brought me a Tow Truck and  
Started my own business untill my arrest on  
this Class your Honor I was on the right  
path. But In 2009 of August my house was  
raided a weapon was found inside my home  
not in my car, not in my pocket, I wasn't standing  
on a corner with it or shooting at no one, or  
attempting to rob some one it was inside of my  
apartment inside a box inside of a closet yes  
I admit I'm not suppose to be around (Guns)  
But my home was broken into twice in one  
year facts that I have police reports for my  
kids and their mother lived there so I never  
wanted to be in a situation where I wasn't  
able to protect ~~the~~ my babies and Girl, it  
some one came and broke in while I was  
there and harm them. I'm sorry your Honor that  
was my past the last charge is this case

That is here with you now, I'm not a bad person just a 37 year old Black man who made some bad choices my back ground don't consist of crime after crime it was 8 years after my 1 charge of car jacking, I got that battery charge(mistake) I'm not saying I'm not gonna ever make mistakes but Your Honor crime is my past, I moving forward with my life and now I have tools and a belt to fight with I have learned respect for the law, Drugs and telling false statements to the law is not in my future. Your Honor I got 180 months total 65 months upward above my Guidelines I only ask that you grant me another chance to be a up standing citizen here in America my kids need me, my community my neices, my nephews, Cousins their friends need me also, I plan on going home and help cease the fire in our city I want to help children that's on ~~the~~ the same bad path I was on and how to grow up and be productive in our world the right way, I want them to here my story and let them know Guns Drugs Gangs Violence, crime just aint the way to go In closing I ask you grant this 2255 and give me a shorter sentence.

Yours

Thank you  
for looking and  
Reviewing

Mantrell Johnson Berlin FCI

44696-424

*44696-424*  
Federal Correctional Institution

20 Box 9000

Berlin NTH 03570

1915-1916  
SCHOOL

## WHITE-RIVER JUNCTION

WT-050 2 1

30 MAY 2017 PM

Judge Virginia Kendall  
OR Gayle A. McGuigan  
Official Court reporter.  
219 S. Dearborn  
Chicago IL 60604.



06/05/2017-26

6060431792 CCO